

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
September 9, 2019

The Board of Aldermen met in *regular* session on **September 9th**, in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Mayweather called the meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderswoman Mary J. Green**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderman Mitchell L. Lewis**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. John Mayweather, Sr., - **Mayor**, Mary J. Green –District **A**, Christopher S. Thomas –District **B**, Mitchell L. Lewis – District **C**, and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: None. **City Hall Personnel, Dept. Heads, & Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Jim Ruffin (Public Works Director), and Gwenda Taylor (Fire Dept.). **Press Present**: Martha Rivers (*The Enterprise*).

It was MOTIONED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the minutes of the **August 26, 2019 *regular*** City Council meeting and dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** to approve the payment of current outstanding bills for this period. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The City Clerk next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. Since no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then subsequently closed.

Old Business:

Item A: It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** to authorize the receipt and opening of all sealed public bids for a new 2019 Heavy-Duty Single-Axle Diesel Garbage Truck for use in the Sanitation Department, and take same under advisement. The sole bid received was hand-delivered by a representative (Stephen Plier) from *Plier International* (Shreveport, LA), coming in at **\$137,056.24**. The bid was recorded and taken under advisement to allow the Public Works Director, Jim Ruffin, an opportunity to fully review the bid to ensure that it met all of the City's bid specifications. It should be noted that the bid received was below the \$175,000 allocation set aside as a capital expense in the Sanitation Department. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Item B: No other old business discussed.

New Business:

Item A: A presentation was offered by Mrs. Fran Norwood of the newly formed coalition, "*Mansfield in Motion*." She and other members of this organization were present at the Council's August 12th regular meeting and introduce themselves to the Board and other attendees.

This group was formed to assist with the Mansfield Revitalization initiative, to augment the aesthetic appeal of the City. Their intentions are to make the City more attractive to potential investors desiring to situate a business here. Mrs. Norwood was present to provide an update on their efforts to-date and to share with the Mayor and Council the work that still needs to be performed in this regard. More pointedly, their focus initially will be improvements to the older commercial structures which are currently situated in the downtown district. Mention was made of needed improvements to a city-owned building (old Feed & Seed building) at the corner of Polk and Adams Streets. Improvements to this structure will require facade repairs as well as interior renovations. Mrs. Norwood distributed to the Mayor and Council, a list of requests to facilitate improvements to this building. Further, Mrs. Norwood stated that some of this organization's leaders recently met with Assistant Police Chief Billy Locke and with DeSoto Parish Sheriff Jayson Richardson to request the occasional use of inmate labor to assist with execution of some of the improvements planned. She will again appear before the Council at a later date to update the City's governance on the progress of their revitalization efforts.

Item B: At this time, a candidate (**Katrina T. Early**) seeking election to the LA State Senate to represent District 38 was allowed to introduce herself to the Mayor, City Council and other attendees at this assembly. She began by sharing her former work history (a State Farm agent for 20 yrs.), in the private sector and some aspects of her military background. She closed by asking for support of her platform and other initiatives by remembering Ballot #74 at the election polls.

Item C: No other new business discussed.

Comments from Mayor Mayweather and/or Council Members: During this period, the Mayor expressed appreciation to all those who attended this meeting and intimated that he looks forward to continuing to promote the City of Mansfield as a great place to reside and work.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:03 p.m.** by MOTION from **JOSEPH HALL, JR.** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS.** Motion Passed Unanimously.

John H. Mayweather, Sr., *Mayor*
Marvin R. Jackson, *Clerk*